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For Immediate Release...

Corrections News

August 5, 2008

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Chillicothe Correctional Center is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 6 at 11:30 a.m.

The new prison will provide expanded services to female offenders in substance abuse treatment, academic education and reentry services.

"Governor Matt Blunt's support for this new facility, along with the support of the Missouri Legislature, has been overwhelming and very much appreciated. The new CCC will allow the Department to manage its female offender population safely and securely, while eliminating the overcrowded conditions we've experienced over the past several years."

Director Larry Crawford

Chillicothe Correctional Center Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Set for Wednesday

State, county and local officials will join Governor Matt Blunt and Missouri Department of Corrections Director Larry Crawford Wednesday, August 6 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Chillicothe Correctional Center (CCC). The site is at 3151 Litton Road. The 11:30 a.m. ceremony will be open to the news media.

"Governor Matt Blunt's support for this new facility, along with the support of the Missouri Legislature, has been overwhelming and very much appreciated," Crawford said. "The new Chillicothe Correctional Center will allow the Department to manage its female offender population safely and securely, while eliminating the overcrowded conditions we've experienced over the past several years."

Missouri's female prison population has increased by 150 percent during the past 10 years, Crawford noted. The state had 1,071 female prisoners in Fiscal Year (FY) 1996, but that number increased to 2,522 in FY 2006. The new CCC's capacity is 1,636, more than triple the old institution's operating capacity of 525.

The new prison will provide expanded services to female offenders in substance abuse treatment, academic education and reentry services. The new facility will also improve safety and security for the public, staff and offenders. Crawford notes the old prison, originally constructed in 1887, did not have basic security measures, such as a full perimeter road or good surveillance due to poor sight lines and dated cameras. Due to its age, the facility also experienced frequent maintenance problems, such as collapsed sewer lines.

Governor Matt Blunt made funding for the new prison a budget priority for 2008. The Legislature supported Governor Blunt's recommendation for an approximately \$14 million increase in the fiscal year 2009 budget for the Department. The additional funding allowed the Department to hire 175 more corrections officers to staff the new CCC, bringing its full-time employees to 560, with an annual payroll of \$15.7 million. The old institution reported approximately 205 full-time employees and an annual operation budget of \$6.2 million.

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